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SHINING TIME STATION

EPISODE # 9
"TWO OLD HANDS"

SECOND DRAFT
By
ELLIS WEINER

From characters and series storyline
created by Britt Allcroft and
Rick Siggelkow

c Quality Family Entertainment Inc., 1988

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FADE IN

(1 MAIN SET--IS EMPTY. BUT WE
HEAR--)

(SFX--TRAIN WHISTLE, TRAIN
APPROACHING FAST. RUNS THROUGH
STATION WITHOUT STOPPING (MORE
WHISTLE), OVER--)

(ANGLE ON PLATFORM ARCH: A BAG OF
MAIL IS TOSSED BY UNSEEN HANDS
FROM THE PLATFORM ONTO THE LANDING
AREA UNDER THE ARCH. IT LANDS AND
SITS THERE.)

(SFX THE TRAIN RECEDES INTO
SILENCE. BEAT. THEN--)

(STACY ENTERS FROM LOST AND FOUND,
MATT AND TANYA DASH IN FROM
STREET. ALL CONVERGE ON BAG.

STACY

Mail call!

MATT

Anything for me?

TANYA

Anything for me?

(ANGLE ON STATION HOUSE--MR. C.
POPS OUT.)

MR. C

Anything for me?

STACY

Everybody wait a second.

(hands out letters)

Tanya...me...Matt...Attention

Manager, Shining Time

Station...

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(AS STACY EXAMINES HER LETTERS,
HARRY SLOWLY EMERGES FROM HIS
OFFICE, A BIT TENTATIVE AND
WITHDRAWN, UNDER--)

STACY

This is from my sister. I can
tell because I can't read the
handwriting.

TANYA

Look! My pen pal sent me a
picture!

STACY

Isn't mail wonderful? You put
a letter in a box, and someone
gives it to your friend a
thousand miles away. Then
the same thing happens in the
other direction. Millions of
people all over the world stay
connected to each other by
trading pieces of paper.

(ANGLE ON MR. C--HE SEES HARRY
AND--)

MR. C

Oh my, oh dear/Time for me to
disappear.

(HE DISAPPEARS.)

HARRY

Got anything for me there,
Stacy?

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STACY

I don't think so, Harry.

(looks at last letter)

Nope. Were you expecting something?

HARRY

Not necessarily. Just thought there'd be something. Thank you.

(HARRY TURNS AND GOES BACK TO HIS OFFICE.)

STACY

Is something wrong with Harry?

Today in particular he seems sad

MATT

He sure seems sad.

TANYA

Oh no! I just remembered!

It's Grandpa's birthday!

STACY

Today? It's really--

(catches herself; in a whisper)

--it's really Harry's birthday.

TANYA

I forgot all about it!

(SHE STARTS TOWARD HARRY'S OFFICE. STACY SEES, MAKES A SNAP

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DECISION, AND HOLDS OUT A HAND TO
STOP HER.)

STACY

Whoa, Tanya! Where are you
going?

TANYA

To say Happy Birthday to
Grandpa.

STACY

I have a better idea. We can
all get together and show how
much we care about him. Let's
throw a surprise party for
Harry.

TANYA

Hey, yeah! Let's go tell him
right now!

STACY

Aah! Tanya, Matt--stop! The
whole point of a surprise
party is that the person
doesn't know about it until it
starts.

TANYA

I'm going to buy him a record.

MATT

And I'm going to get him a
baseball bat!

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STACY

Well... I have a better idea.
Let's all make him something.
An original creation! Anyone
can buy a present. But making
something is really special--
it's a little bit of you. I'll
get some supplies--

(SHE GOES TO INFO BOOTH, OPENS
DRAWER--)

(SFX: CAVALRY CHARGE: HORSES,
BUGLE, ETC.)

STACY

Sorry. Wrong drawer.
(as Tanya moves toward arcade)
Where are you going?

TANYA

We need some music if we're
working, right?

STACY

Right.

(TANYA GOES TO JUKE BOX, PUTS
NICKEL IN--)

CUT TO

(2 INT. JUKE BOX--THE PUPPETS
ARE POSED AT INSTRUMENTS.)

DIDI

Hey, did you hear that? It's
Harry's birthday.

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DIDI

Uh-oh.

TITO

Like why uh-oh, babes?

DIDI

We should play a song Harry
likes. What if the customer
picks the wrong tune?

REX

It is our professional duty to
play whatever the customer
selects, little lady.

TEX

That's mighty nicely put, Rex.

REX

Thank you, Tex.

TEX

You're welcome, Rex.

DIDI

Aw, give it a rest, you guys.

TITO

Heads up! Here it comes--

(THE NICKEL DESCENDS.)

(THE SONG IS, "A RAILROADER FOR
ME.")

TITO

Yeah! I think Harry'll dig
it.

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(INTERCUT FROM PUPPETS PLAYING, TO MATT, TANYA, AND STACY ASSEMBLING GIFTS. TANYA PAINTS A PICTURE OF A TRAIN, MATT MAKES THE FRAME FOR TANYA'S PICTURE. AFTER A BIT OF THIS)

CUT TO

(3 HARRY'S OFFICE--HARRY IS SINGING ALONG, TO HIMSELF, WHILE LEAFING THROUGH AN OLD ALBUM OF TRAIN ILLUSTRATIONS OR PHOTOGRAPHS. INTERCUT WITH)

(4 MAIN SET--WHEN SONG ENDS, WE ARE BACK HERE; THE GIFTS ARE COMPLETED AND SIT IN ALMOST PLAIN SIGHT.)

STACY

There. All we need now is something to put them in.

HARRY (O.S.)

(sings chorus from song)

(SHE LOOKS OVER TOWARD HARRY'S OFFICE, HEARS HIM COMING, REACTS WITH PANIC--)

STACY

Yikes!

(--AND DASHES OVER TOWARD HIM UNDER--)

HARRY

Say, uh, Stacy? Mind if we hear that tune again--?

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STACY

(to kids, sotto)

We can't let Harry see the
presents!

(improvising)

Um, we can't, Harry, because,
somebody, needs, something--

(SHE TURNS TO DIRECT HIM TOWARD
OUTSIDE AS KIDS SHIELD GIFTS WITH
THEIR BODIES. HARRY LOOKS
CRESTFALLEN.)

HARRY

Who needs what?

STACY

--Schemer! Needs a box of
Cheese Giggles from the
storeroom! For the snack
machine on the platform.

HARRY

I just brought him up a box of
Cheese Giggles this morning.

STACY

But he needs another one.
Would you mind getting it?
Please, Harry?

(HARRY THINKS ABOUT THIS A MOMENT,
THEN SLOWLY AGREES, AND STARTS
MOVING TOWARD THE PLATFORM ARCH.)

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HARRY

I must be getting old.

People keep thinking up jobs
for me, just to make
me feel useful.

(STACY WATCHES HIM MOVE THROUGH
ARCH AND AWAY. SOME REGRET AT HIS
MOOD. THEN, BRISKLY--)

STACY

Okay, kids. Let's get all
this together. We need a
box--

(MATT SPIES EMPTY CARTON AGAINST A
WALL NEAR LOST AND FOUND, DASHES
OVER, HOLDS IT UP: CHEESE GIGGLES
LOGO ON IT.)

MATT

How about this?

STACY

Perfect.

(SHE AND TANYA PUT THE GIFTS
INSIDE, THEN SHE FOLDS OVER THE
FLAPS TO CLOSE IT.)

STACY (CONT'D)

We'd better figure out a place
to hide this--

(ANGLE ON STATION HOUSE--MR.
CONDUCTOR APPEARS, WORRIED.)

MR. C

Well, it's a relief that's over
with.

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MATT

Mr. Conductor! What happened?

MR. C

You mean to say you didn't hear
it?

TANYA

Hear what?

MR. C

All that grumbling and fussing
over on the Island of Sodor?

(STACY SUDDENLY PUTS THE BOX DOWN
NEAR THE TICKET BOOTH, VISIBLE
FROM THE STREET ENTRANCE.)

STACY

The only grumbling we hear is
from Harry. Anyway, I'll be
right back. I just got a
terrific idea, and I have to
make a phone call.

(SHE EXITS.)

MATT

Who's been grumbling and
fussing?

MR. C

It was Gordon. And the
others. And--well, just
listen--

(HE BLOWS WHISTLE.)

DISSOLVE TO

(5 THOMAS EPISODE 17--"PERCY
RUNS AWAY")

DISSOLVE TO

(6 MAIN SET--MATT, TANYA, MR. C)

MATT

So now the other engines are
friends with Percy?

MR. C

Oh, yes. They just had to get
to know him, that's all.

TANYA

Well, you can be friend with
my Grandpa. All you have to
do is to get to know him.

MATT

You can come to Harry's
surprise ^{birthday} party.

MR. C

Oh, dear, I don't know. He
might not like me. He's a very
private person, isn't he?

MATT

I think he's just shy.

TANYA

That's impossible. Grownups
aren't shy.

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MATT

Some grownups are.

TANYA

Like who.

MR. C

I can tell you someone. I...
know a chap, he's lived
somewhere for a very long time
without seeing many people.
Then, all at once, new people
moved in, and it's made him
very shy indeed.

MATT

(innocently)

That sounds like you, Mr.
Conductor.

MR. C

Well...it is, actually.

(as Stacy enters)

Hello, Stacy.

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STACY

Hi, Mr. Conductor. Well, gang,
we're all set. Even we are
going to be surprised at this
party. A special friend of
mine has promised to join us
for this bash, and I think
Harry will really enjoy meeting
him. He sings, he dances, he
tells stories--

(hears Harry returning from
platform)

Whoops! Mum's the word.

MR. C

There's another word, too:

Good-bye!

(HE DISAPPEARS. HARRY ENTERS WITH
CHEESE GIGGLES BOX, SETS IT DOWN
FRONT AND CENTER.)

HARRY

Tell Schemer he can carry his
own boxes from now on. I'm
getting too old for this sort
of thing.

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STACY

That's the second time you've
said how old you're getting
Harry. I don't know--you
look pretty peppy to me.

HARRY

(after fixing her with a look)
I feel fine. But I wouldn't
call it "peppy."

(HE STARTS WALKING TOWARD HIS
WORKSHOP.)

(ANGLE ON INFO DESK--MR. C APPEARS
JUST AS HARRY WALKS PAST.)

MR. C

(to himself)

Come on. Do it. There you
go./It never hurts to say
hello.

(to Harry)

Um...how do you do, Harry--

(HARRY STOPS, SCOWLS, LOOKS
AROUND(THE OTHERS ARE RAPT).)

HARRY

You hear something? Funny
little voice?

(HE SHAKES HIS HEAD AND KEEPS
WALKING.)

(MR. C GATHERS COURAGE, VANISHES--)

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(ANGLE ON ARCADE--AND REAPPEARS
STANDING ON NICKELODEON, JUST AS
HARRY WALKS PAST.)

MR. C

Um...Allow me to introduce
myself--

(HARRY STOPS, LOOKS AROUND,
GLIMPSES MR. C.)

(CU MR. CONDUCTOR--IT'S TOO MUCH
FOR HIM. HE MAKES A FACE AND
DISAPPEARS.)

(RESUME: HARRY--SHAKES HIS HEAD.
THEN, TO HIMSELF--)

HARRY

Lord, I am getting old. First
hearing voices, now I'm seeing
things.

(HE GOES INTO HIS OFFICE AND SHUTS
THE DOOR.)

(ANGLE ON STATION HOUSE--MR. C
APPEARS.)

MR. C

Well, I tried.

TANYA

Remember what you told us,
keep on trying!

MR. C

But what if he doesn't like
me? He can be very gruff, you
know.

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STACY

Harry is a private person, Mr.
Conductor. He likes to work.
He might even think he doesn't
need friends at all.

MATT

Everybody needs friends. Even
Harry.

STACY

My hunch is--whether he knows
it or not--Harry has a lot of
friends.

(as she exits)

Like us!

MR. C

You're absolutely right, Matt.
Everybody needs friends--even
Thomas. He just discovered the
hard way how much he needs his
driver. Let me tell you about
it...

DISSOLVE TO

(7 THOMAS EPISODE 44--"THOMAS
COMES TO BREAKFAST")

DISSOLVE TO

(8 MAIN SET--KIDS AND MR. C)

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MATT

But there's one thing I don't
understand, Mr. Conductor.

Does that mean you shouldn't
try and do things on your own?

MR. C

Oh my word, no. It just means
that there are some things no
one can do on their own. A
train can't run itself, no
matter how confident it feels--

STACY (O.S.)

Matt? Tanya? Could you come
here for a minute?

MR. C

Better go see what Stacy
wants. We'll talk about this
later.

MATT

Okay.

(THE KIDS SKIP OFF THROUGH THE
ARCH TO PLATFORM. MR. C SPIES
SOMEONE ENTERING FROM STREET)

MR. C

So there he is. I was
wondering when he'd show up.

Oh well...

(AND HE DISAPPEARS.)

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(SCHEMER ENTERS FROM STREET.)

SCHEMER

Hey, it's me! Anybody here?

(beat; to himself)

Oh, very nice. A public
facility like this, and
nobody's on duty.

(HE LOOKS AROUND, SEES THE
GIFT-CARTON NEAR TICKET BOOTH.)

SCHEMER (CONT'D)

Oh, I can put these Cheese
Giggles in the machines now.
It's about time.

(HE PICKS UP THE BOX, STARTS FOR
THE PLATFORM--)

SCHEMER (CONT'D)

I love these silly things...
(he stops, thinks)
Ah, why not. I paid for
'em. Besides, the machine's
got plenty of Corn Whammies and
Potato Boom-Booms anyway. I
think I'll take these home.

(HE TAKES BOX BACK OUT THROUGH
STREET ENTRANCE. BEAT.)

(9 ANGLE ON PLATFORM ARCH--MATT
AND TANYA ENTER, CARRYING CREPE
PAPER STREAMERS, TAPE, BAGS OF
CONFETTI, BALLOONS, WHATEVER)

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MATT

Wait a minute. We need a cake.

Do you know how to make one?

TANYA

The only thing I can make is
French toast and chocolate
pudding.

MATT

That's no help. I can't make
one either.

(MR. CONDUCTOR APPEARS)

MR. C

Did I hear someone mention a
birthday cake? Where is it?

TANYA

That's what we want to know.

MR. C

You should ask, then. I'll
save you the trouble. Take a
look down the Anything Tunnel.

(THE KIDS CROSS TO IT, UNDER--)

MATT

Is somebody making a cake in
there?

MR. C

Some body? No. Not quite--

(THEY GO DOWN ANYTHING TUNNEL.)

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CUT TO

(10 INSERT: ANIMATION OF CAKE
BEING MADE.)

CUT TO

(11 MAIN SET--KIDS CLOSE TUNNEL
DOOR, EMPTY-HANDED BUT AWE-STRUCK.)

TANYA

Did they really make a real
cake in there?

MR. C

Certainly. Would you like to
see it?

(HE GESTURES: THE CAKE APPEARS ON
HIS HAND.)

MR. C (CONT'D)

This is for Harry's party.

(KIDS AD LIB THANKS, OH-GREAT!,
ETC., AND TAKE CAKE.)

(ANGLE ON SET: STACY ENTERS,
STOPS, LOOKS AT BOX IN CENTER OF
FLOOR, THEN AT WALL WHERE GIFT BOX
USED TO BE. FROWNS.)

STACY

Uh-oh...Tanya, what's in
that box?

(TANYA GROW INSTANTLY WORRIED AND
RUNS OVER, OPENS THE BOX.)

STACY (CONT'D)

Birthday presents? Or Cheese
Giggles?

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TANYA

Cheese Giggles.

STACY

I think our friend Schemer came
while we were gone, and took
the box of presents by
mistake.

(off their cry of dismay)

Now don't panic! Let's just
stop for a minute and think of
what we can do.

MATT

(pause for a beat; doubtfully)

Would Harry like the Cheese
Giggles?

STACY

Okay. Let's say we have to
make them again. Is that so
terrible? Come on, we'll put
another song on the juke box,
we'll find some more
materials--it'll be fun! Let's
GO!

(kids don't move)

Mr. Conductor, do you have any
ideas?

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MR. C

(pointing toward entrance)

Frankly, I'm the last to know/

But here he comes, and here I

go.

(HE DISAPPEARS AS SCHEMER BURSTS
IN FROM THE STREET, WITH BOX. ALL
STARE AT IT.)

SCHEMER

Hey, Miss Jones, where were
ya ten minutes ago? I came
in, the place was empty. What
if some customer needed change
for the arcade?

(sees them looking at box)

SCHEMER (CONT'D)

What's everybody looking at?

This? I thought it was a
carton of Cheese Giggles, turns

out it's a bunch of...I don't

know...artsy-craftsy stuff.

(STACY OPENS HER MOUTH TO SPEAK,
BUT IS INTERRUPTED BY--)

(ANGLE ON HARRY'S OFFICE--HARRY
STEPS OUT OF DOOR.)

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HARRY

Is that Schemer out here?

Listen, mister, the next time
you want stuff brought up from
downstairs, you can do it
yourself.

(STACY STRIDES FORWARD, WAVES
SCHEMER QUIET, AND STEERS HARRY
BACK INTO HIS OFFICE.)

STACY

Uh, Harry? Have you fixed that
ticket puncher yet?

HARRY

Not yet.

STACY

Could you take another look?
Or should I send it out to be
fixed...?

HARRY

No need to send anything out.

I'll fix it.

(HARRY GOES BACK IN HIS OFFICE AND
SHUTS THE DOOR. ALL BREATHE SIGH
OF RELIEF EXCEPT BAFFLED SCHEMER.)

SCHEMER

What's he talking about? I
didn't ask him to bring
anything up. Besides, there's
no Cheese Giggles in this
carton. It's full of--

TANYA

--birthday presents.

SCHEMER

--yeah, right, birthday
presents.

(beat)

Somebody having a birthday?

MATT

Harry. We're having a
surprise party for him. Those
are the presents we made.

SCHEMER

Oh. Well, isn't that nice. I
myself don't really care for
surprise parties, but you guys
go ahead, live it up.

STACY

Have you even been to a
surprise party, Schemer?

SCHEMER

I've heard of 'em. And a
very close friend of mine
almost went to one.

STACY

Ever been invited to one
yourself?

(off his head-shake "no)

Kids?

(beat--they hesitate)

Kids?

TANYA

Would you like to come to my
Grandpa's surprise party?

SCHEMER

Depends. When is it?

STACY

Right now.

(SHE MARCHES TO HARRY'S DOOR.
KIDS GET OUT GIFTS AND CAKE.)

SCHEMER

Hey, hold it. I don't have a
present to give him. I could
be severely embarrassed.

MATT

Why don't you give him some
nickels for the juke box?

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SCHEMER

Nickels? Coin of the realm?

Moola? You mean give him

some m..m..m--money?

STACY

What a great idea, Schemer.

Harry loves to play the juke
box.

SCHEMER

Okay, okay. Besides, I can
listen to the music too. So
it's not a total loss.

STACY

Harry? Could you come out for
a second?

(HE APPEARS AT DOOR. STACY LEADS
HIM OUT.)

HARRY

Now what? Can't a man work in
peace?

STACY

Somebody wants to tell you
something.

(THEY ARRIVE AT THE OTHERS, WHO
HIDE GIFTS BEHIND BACKS.)

HARRY

Well? What is it?

ALL

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

(HARRY IS TOUCHED. HE SEES GIFTS,
ETC.)

(INSERT: CU MR. CONDUCTOR AT
STATION HOUSE, SMILING AT THE
PROCEEDINGS AND MAKING UP HIS MIND
ABOUT SOMETHING.)

(RESUME--HARRY--AS HE SPEAKS,
SFX: TRAIN ARRIVING BUILDS IN
BACKGROUND.)

HARRY

Well, sir. This is mighty
nice. Yes, sir. I guess maybe
I was a little irritable today,
but...well, it's always good
to know that there are people
who care about you, so...Thank
you.

(TANYA KISSES HIM AS SFX: TRAIN
WHISTLE SOUNDS. STACY POINTS TO
PLATFORM WITH ONE HAND, READS
WATCH ON OTHER.)

STACY

Right on time.

(ANGLE ON PLATFORM ARCH: MAIL BAG
LANDS. STACY GOES OVER, OPENS IT,
LOOKS AT LETTERS.)

STACY (CONT'D)

Harry...Harry...Harry...Harry..

(SHE QUICKLY FLIPS THROUGH A THICK
SHEAF OF THEM, AND GROWS AMUSED.
FINALLY SHE HOLDS THEM ALL OUT TO
HARRY.)

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STACY. (CONT'D)

Here's your mail. The whole
bundle.

(ANGLE ON PLATFORM: ENTERTAINER
APPEARS.)

ENTERTAINER

Is there a gentleman named
Harry here? I've come to sing
in your honor, sir.

(12 INSERT: ENTERTAINER DOES
SONG, ETC. AT END OF SONG)

CUT TO

(13 INT. HARRY'S
WORKSHOP--LATER. HARRY IS
SITTING, REFLECTING.)

(ANGLE ON DOOR TO WORKSHOP:)

(MR. CONDUCTOR HESITATES BEFORE
ENTERING. MATT AND TANYA ARE
NEARBY, WATCHING. HE TURNS TO
THEM, STARTS TO SPEAK--BUT THEY
WAVE HIM ON IN, SILENTLY. HE
TURNS TOWARD DOOR, SCREWS UP HIS
COURAGE, AND--)

(ANGLE ON WORKSHOP: MR. C ENTERS
TIMIDLY.)

MR. C

Excuse me...?

(HARRY TURNS SLOWLY, SEES HIM,
FROWNS, TURNS AWAY, THEN TURNS TO
STARE AT HIM.)

HARRY

You for real?

MR. C

As real as you are.

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HARRY

Was that you I saw before?

(off his nod)

Well, that's a relief, at
least. But what do you do
here?

MR. C

I live here, don't I? I've
living here since before the
day the Mimosa Limited made
her first run.

HARRY

That's going back a ways.

MR. C

Oh, I've been around, all
right. I saw that derailed
engine at Tabernash in
Colorado--do you know that
one?

(off Harry's skeptical head-
shake)

MR. C (CONT'D)

The temperature was 45 below zero. One of the men started to bring a big engine out of the shed to hook up with her train on the next track. Well, the engine hit some heavy ice, hard as stone, and went completely off the rails--tender and all. But her momentum carried her clear to the next track! Every wheel settled snug as you please onto the new rails, and she wound up smack in front of the train, ready to go. All the fellow had to do was back her up and couple 'em on.

HARRY

(after a skeptical pause)

That story true?

MR. C

Gospel.

HARRY

They were wonderful machines back then.

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MR. C

Some of them still are, Mr...?

HARRY

Call me Harry. I suppose
there's still some wonderful
engines around. But it's
different. Railroad's like
me. Old and on the way out.

MR. C

That's not what I see. I see
useful, dependable, and still
going strong.

HARRY

Well...I can tell you're an
old railroad man like myself.
In your own way, of course.
I...uh...I didn't catch your
name...

MR. C

Mr. Conductor, at your service.

HARRY

I'm glad you spoke up, Mr.
Conductor.

MR. C

It was the kids' idea,
actually. Matt and Tanya.

Good idea

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HARRY

Good idea.

(ANGLE ON DOOR TO WORKSHOP (EITHER
FROM WITHIN SHOP, OR FROM MAIN
SET)--MATT AND TANYA LISTEN
BREATHLESSLY, EARS UP TO A CRACK
IN THE DOOR. THEY LOOK AT EACH
OTHER AND EXCHANGE A SILENT,
GLEEFUL LOOK. THEN THEY EACH PUT
A FINGER TO THEIR LIPS FOR QUIET.)

(DOLLY BACK, UNDER--)

HARRY (O.S.)

Yep, that reminds me of one Big

Dan Cunningham told me once.

Swears it's true, of course...

(MUSIC UP, AND--)

(CLOSING CREDITS)

(FADE)